

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A method of increasing healing of a heart wound in a euthyroid adult mammal, comprising the step of administering to a first euthyroid adult mammal having a heart wound an amount of a thyroid hormone-lowering agent effective to decrease a level of a T3 or T4 thyroid hormone relative to the T3 or T4 thyroid hormone level in a second euthyroid adult mammal to whom the thyroid hormone-lowering agent has not been administered, wherein the heart wound is selected from the group consisting of a surgical incision, a cut, a stretch, a tear, a pull, an abrasion, a tissue punch, a burn, a crush, a scrape, a contusion, a bruise, a puncture, and a cold-induced lesion, whereby healing of a heart wound in the first euthyroid adult mammal is increased relative to healing of a heart wound in the second euthyroid adult mammal.

2. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone-lowering agent is~~ A method of increasing healing of a heart wound in a euthyroid adult mammal, comprising the step of administering to a first euthyroid adult mammal having a heart wound an amount of propylthiouracil effective to decrease a level of a T3 or T4 thyroid hormone relative to the T3 or T4 thyroid hormone level in a second euthyroid adult mammal to whom the thyroid hormone-lowering agent has not been administered, whereby healing of a heart wound in the first euthyroid adult mammal is increased relative to healing of a heart wound in the second euthyroid adult mammal.

3-14. canceled

15. (currently amended) A method of increasing healing of a heart wound in a euthyroid adult C57Bl/6 mouse, comprising the step of administering to a first euthyroid adult C57Bl/6 mouse having a heart wound an amount of a thyroid hormone-lowering agent effective to decrease a level of a T3 or T4 thyroid hormone relative to the T3 or T4 thyroid hormone level in

a second euthyroid adult C57Bl/6 mouse to whom the thyroid hormone-lowering agent has not been administered, whereby healing of a heart wound in the first euthyroid adult C57Bl/6 mouse is increased relative to healing of a heart wound in the second euthyroid adult ~~The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second euthyroid adult mammals are C57Bl/6 mice.~~

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second euthyroid adult mammals are humans.

17. (currently amended) A method of increasing healing of a heart wound in a euthyroid adult mammal, comprising the step of administering to a first euthyroid adult mammal having a heart wound an amount of a thyroid hormone-lowering agent effective to decrease a level of a T3 or T4 thyroid hormone relative to the T3 or T4 thyroid hormone level in a second euthyroid adult mammal to whom the thyroid hormone-lowering agent has not been administered, whereby healing of a heart wound in the first euthyroid adult mammal is increased relative to healing of a heart wound in the second euthyroid adult mammal, ~~The method of claim 4 wherein the increased healing in the first euthyroid adult mammal comprises re-epithelialization.~~

18. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone lowering agent decreases T3 levels.

19. (currently amended) A method of increasing healing of a heart wound in a euthyroid adult mammal, comprising the step of administering to a first euthyroid adult mammal having a heart wound an amount of a thyroid hormone-lowering agent effective to decrease a level of a T3 or T4 thyroid hormone relative to the T3 or T4 thyroid hormone level in a second euthyroid adult mammal to whom the thyroid hormone-lowering agent has not been administered, whereby healing of a heart wound in the first euthyroid adult mammal is increased relative to healing of a

heart wound in the second euthyroid adult mammal, The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone lowering agent decreases T4 levels.

20-23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2 wherein the heart wound is an ischemic infarct.

25. (currently amended) A method of increasing healing of a heart wound in a euthyroid adult mammal, comprising the step of administering to a first euthyroid adult mammal having a heart wound an amount of a thyroid hormone-lowering agent effective to decrease a level of a T3 or T4 thyroid hormone relative to the T3 or T4 thyroid hormone level in a second euthyroid adult mammal to whom the thyroid hormone-lowering agent has not been administered, whereby healing of a heart wound in the first euthyroid adult mammal is increased relative to healing of a heart wound in the second euthyroid adult mammal, The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of detecting increased healing of the heart wound in the first euthyroid adult mammal.

26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) A method of increasing healing of a heart wound in a euthyroid adult mammal, comprising the step of administering to a first euthyroid adult mammal having a heart wound an amount of a thyroid hormone-lowering agent effective to decrease a level of a T3 or T4 thyroid hormone relative to the T3 or T4 thyroid hormone level in a second euthyroid adult mammal to whom the thyroid hormone-lowering agent has not been administered, whereby healing of a heart wound in the first euthyroid adult mammal is increased relative to healing of a heart wound in the second euthyroid adult mammal, The method of claim 1 wherein the level of

the T3 or T4 thyroid hormone is decreased by at least 90% relative to the T3 or T4 thyroid hormone level in the second euthyroid adult mammal.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 27 wherein the level of the T3 or T4 thyroid hormone is decreased by at least 95% relative to the T3 or T4 thyroid hormone level in the second euthyroid adult mammal.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 27 wherein the level of the T3 or T4 thyroid hormone is decreased by at least 99% relative to the T3 or T4 thyroid hormone level in the second euthyroid adult mammal.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 27 wherein the level of the T3 or T4 thyroid hormone is decreased by at least 100% relative to the T3 or T4 thyroid hormone level in the second euthyroid adult mammal.

31. (new) The method of claim 2 wherein the first and second euthyroid adult mammals are humans.